

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES,

No. CR 01-00419 CRB

Plaintiff,

**ORDER DENYING PETITIONER'S
SECTION 2255 MOTION AND
GRANTING THE GOVERNMENT'S
MOTION TO DISMISS**

v.

JOSE LUIS MEDINA ALVARADO,

Defendant.

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Petitioner Jose Luis Medina Alvarado moves the Court to correct his sentence under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 based on a recent Supreme Court case holding that any fact that increases the penalty for a crime is considered an “element” of the crime, and must be determined by a jury beyond a reasonable doubt. See generally 2255 Mot. (dkt. 351) (citing Alleyne v. United States, 133 S. Ct. 2151, 2155 (2013)). The government moves to dismiss Petitioner’s motion. See generally MTD (dkt. 358). Because Petitioner’s motion was not certified by the Ninth Circuit, Alleyne does not apply retroactively, and Petitioner has already received the benefit which his motion seeks, the Court DENIES Petitioner’s motion and GRANTS the government’s motion.

I. BACKGROUND

Petitioner was convicted on October 10, 2002 of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine, and three counts of possession with intent to distribute, and

1 distribution of, methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 846, 841(a)(1). See
2 Indictment (dkt. 77); Verdict (dkt. 190). The Jury issued a special verdict as to the type and
3 quantity of narcotics at issue in each count. Id.; MTD Ex. A (Verdicts for Defendant Jose
4 Luis Medina Alvarado, indicating “500 grams or more” for Count One, “50 grams or more
5 but less than 500 grams” for Count Three, “500 grams or more” for Count Four).

6 On June 4, 2003, this Court sentenced Petitioner to 240 months in prison on each
7 count, to run concurrently, to be followed by five years of supervised release. See Minutes
8 (dkt. 223). Judgment was filed and Petitioner appealed. See Judgment (dkt. 227), Notice of
9 Appeal (dkt. 236). The Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit denied Petitioner’s claims but
10 remanded pursuant to United States v. Ameline, 376 F.3d 967 (2004), to allow this Court to
11 determine whether it would have imposed a materially different sentence had it known that
12 the United States Sentencing Guidelines were advisory. See Copy of Judgment from USCA
13 (dkt. 272). On February 15, 2006, this Court determined that its sentence would have been
14 materially different, and resentenced Petitioner to 210 months in prison on each count, to run
15 concurrently, to be followed by five years of supervised release. See Minutes (dkt. 299).
16 The Ninth Circuit affirmed this Court’s judgment. See United States v. Medina Alvarado,
17 221 Fed. Appx. 572.

18 On September 30, 2008, Petitioner filed a timely petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2255,
19 claiming that he had received ineffective assistance of counsel. See First 2255 Mot. (dkt.
20 325). On February 12, 2009, this Court denied Petitioner’s motion. See Order (dkt. 332).
21 Petitioner appealed the Court’s denial, and the Ninth Circuit affirmed. See Notice of Appeal
22 (dkt. 333), USCA Memorandum (dkt. 341).

23 On August 3, 2012, Petitioner filed a second petition under 28 U.S.C. § 2255,
24 although he styled it as a motion pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(b)(6). Rule
25 60 Mot. (dkt. 348). On October 2, 2012, this Court denied Petitioner’s motion, construing it
26 as a second and successive habeas petition for which the Ninth Circuit had not granted a
27 certificate of appealability. See Order (dkt. 349).

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1 Petitioner has now filed a third collateral attack on his conviction and sentence.
2 See Mot. He argues that he is entitled to relief in light of the Supreme Court's recent
3 decision in Alleyne. Id. at 1. The government moves to dismiss. See generally MTD.

4 **II. LEGAL STANDARD**

5 The Sixth Amendment provides that individuals who are accused of a crime have the
6 right to a trial "by an impartial jury." U.S. Const. amend. VI. The Supreme Court has held
7 that this requires "criminal convictions to rest upon a jury determination that the defendant is
8 guilty of every element of the crime with which he is charged, beyond a reasonable doubt."
9 United States v. Gaudin, 515 U.S. 506, 510 (1995). "Any fact that, by law, increases the
10 penalty for a crime is an 'element' that must be submitted to the jury and found beyond a
11 reasonable doubt." Alleyne, 133 S. Ct. at 2155.

12 A claim presented in a second or successive habeas petition that was not presented in
13 a prior petition must be dismissed unless it satisfies one of two sets of requirements: the
14 petition must contain either "newly discovered evidence" or "a new rule of constitutional
15 law, made retroactive to cases on collateral review by the Supreme Court, that was
16 previously unavailable." 28 U.S.C. § 2255(h); 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(2). A defendant must
17 obtain the permission of the court of appeals to file such a motion with the district court. 28
18 U.S.C. § 2255(h); 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A).

19 "[A] new rule is not made retroactive to cases on collateral review unless the Supreme
20 Court holds it to be retroactive." Tyler v. Cain, 533 U.S. 656, 663 (2001) (internal quotation
21 marks omitted).

22 **III. DISCUSSION**

23 Petitioner argues that he is entitled to relief in light of Alleyne because "the District
24 Court found facts in his case that increased his prescribed range to which he was exposed to,
25 which led to violating his Sixth Amendment rights." Mot. at 1. Not so.

26 First, Petitioner failed to comply with the procedural requirements for filing a
27 successive section 2255 motion, and so his motion must be dismissed. See 28 U.S.C. §
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1 2255(h); 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A); United States v. Allen, 157 F.3d 661, 664 (9th Cir.
2 1998).

3 Second, the Ninth Circuit is not likely to certify Petitioner's motion. Although the
4 Ninth Circuit has not yet addressed the retroactivity of Alleyne, every circuit to consider the
5 question has determined that Alleyne does not apply retroactively. See, e.g., Simpson v.
6 United States, 721 F.3d 875, 876 (7th Cir. 2013); United States v. Redd, 733 F.3d 88, 91 (2d
7 Cir. 2013); In re Payne, 733 F.3d 1027, 1029-30 (10th Cir. 2013); In re Kemper, 735 F.3d
8 211, 212 (5th Cir. 2013). This Court is in agreement with the majority. As Alleyne is an
9 extension of Apprendi v. New Jersey, 530 U.S. 466 (2000), and Apprendi is not retroactive,
10 Alleyne is also not retroactive. See Cooper-Smith v. Palmateer, 397 F.3d 1236, 1246 (9th
11 Cir. 2005) (reaffirming that Apprendi rule is not retroactive).

12 Petitioner argues that his failure to obtain Ninth Circuit certification is immaterial
13 because he preserved his objection. Reply (dkt. 360) at 2. Even assuming the truth of that
14 assertion, Petitioner has not cited to any authority for the proposition that his objection
15 permits Alleyne to be applied retroactively.¹

16 Finally, although Petitioner asserts repeatedly that this Court "found facts" that
17 enhanced Petitioner's sentence, see, e.g., Mot. at 1, 4 ("at no point did the district court judge
18 submit to the jury for consideration the amount of methamphetamine involved"), 7 ("the
19 judge, rather than the jury, found 5 Kilograms of methamphetamine"), this is demonstrably
20 false. The Court did submit to the jury the question of drug type and quantity, and the jury
21 completed a special verdict form in which it determined those facts. See Verdict; MTD Ex.
22 A. Accordingly, Petitioner has already received the benefit which his motion seeks.

23 **IV. CONCLUSION**

24 For the foregoing reasons, the Court DENIES Petitioner's motion and GRANTS the

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27 ¹ Rather, one of the cases Petitioner cites notes that "the Apprendi rule only applies to direct
28 appeals and not collateral attacks, because the Supreme Court has not made Apprendi retroactive to
collateral attacks." See United States v. Candelario, 240 F.3d 1300, 1309 (11th Cir. 2001) (citing In re
Joshua, 224 F.3d 1281 (11th Cir. 2000)).

1 government's motion.

2 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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4 Dated: February 3, 2014

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CHARLES R. BREYER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE